

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 SCCT-01 SY-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /103 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL; CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 15

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 15,
1976:

Q. ARE WE AND THE WEST GERMANS IN PRETTY MUCH GENERAL
AGREEMENT ABOUT TERRORISM IN GENERAL AND ABOUT THE ENTEBBE
RAID IN PARTICULAR?

A. YES, I THINK SO. AND I THINK THAT THAT WAS UNDER-
SCORED YESTERDAY BY AMBASSADOR BENNETT AT THE CONCLUSION
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE IN WHICH HE STATED THAT WE
CERTAINLY STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE STATEMENT BY THE FRG
REPRESENTATIVE -- THAT WE WILL STRONGLY SUPPORT THEIR
EFFORTS -- AND THAT WE WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THEM TO
ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS OF THE UN TO SUPPORT A CONVENTION
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ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED BY THE WEST GERMANS.

Q. THERE WAS A REPORT ON THAT SUGGESTION IN THE NEW YORK
TIMES, I BELIEVE, YESTERDAY, WHICH SAID THAT THE CONVENTION
WOULD OBLIGATE THE SIGNATORY COUNTRIES NOT TO NEGOTIATE
WITH HIJACKERS, KIDNAPPERS, AND SO ON. IS THAT YOUR

UNDERSTANDING -- THAT THIS U.S. POSITION WOULD BE ACCEPTED

AS BINDING BY OTHER COUNTRIES?

A. I HAVE NOT SEEN THE SPECIFICS OF THE GERMAN PLAN, BUT I THINK THAT IS GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE POSITION THAT WE HAVE TAKEN ON HIJACKINGS.

Q. WELL, THE THING THAT I'M ASKING IS WHETHER IT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED TO BIND THEMSELVES TO THIS U.S. POSITION.

A. OTHER COUNTRIES?

Q. YES.

A. OBVIOUSLY, IT HAS NEVER BEEN ADOPTED, IN SPITE OF OUR REPEATED EFFORTS --

Q. YES.

A. -- AND AS A RESULT OF THIS AND TB GERMAN INTERVENTION, WE ARE NOW GOING TO MAKE RENEWED EFFORTS TO GET A CONVENTION ADOPTED.

Q. WHAT I'M ASKING IS: IS IT YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CONVENTION, AS PROPOSED OR OUTLINED BY THE COMMON MARKET AT THE WEST GERMAN INITIATIVE, WOULD OBLIGE COUNTRIES NOT TO NEGOTIATE WITH KIDNAPPERS? WOULD YOU LOOK INTO THAT?

A. LET ME LOOK INTO THAT.

Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT?

A. SIR.
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Q. THE PROJECTED MISSILE SALE TO JORDAN.

A. YES.

Q. THERE IS AN AP STORY TO THE EFFECT THAT SUCH A SALE MIGHT BE COMPLETED WITHIN A WEEK. IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY INDICATION OF ANY TIMEFRAME. I DO KNOW THAT WE ARE CONTINUING OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH JORDAN ON THIS PROPOSED SALE, AND WE HAVE ALSO HAD SOME DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SAUDIS. AND WITH OUR ENCOURAGEMENT, THE

JORDANIAN AND SAUDI GOVERNMENTS ARE ALSO IN TOUCH WITH ONE ANOTHER. SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, BUT I CANNOT

REALLY GO BEYOND THAT. IT HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFULLY
CONCLUDED YET.

Q. PROGRESS IN TERMS OF REDUCTION OF PRICE ON OUR PART,
OR GREATER WILLINGNESS --

A. THE INITIAL PROBLEM, THE ESSENTIAL PROBLEM, HAS BEEN
THE FINANCING OF IT.

ON BACKGROUND, I WOULD ASSUME WHEN WE GET INTO DISCUSSIONS
OF FINANCING THERE MAY BE SOME DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE
TWO GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE TOTAL PACKAGE.
END BACKGROUND.

Q. WHICH TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

A. JORDANIAN AND SAUDI GOVERNMENTS.

Q. HAS THE AMERICAN PRICE CHANGED?

A. ON BACKGROUND IT ISN'T A QUESTION OF A PRICE --
THE PRICE WOULD CHANGE IF THE DIMENSIONS OF THE PACKAGE
CHANGE. END BACKGROUND.

Q. I UNDERSTAND THAT. SO THAT IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE
DIMENSIONS OF THE PACKAGE ARE CHANGING?
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A. ON BACKGROUND YES, I WOULD SAY THAT. END BACKGROUND.

Q. AND OF COURSE CHANGING TO BECOME A SMALLER DEAL
RATHER THAN A LARGER ONE, RIGHT?

A. AGAIN ON BACKGROUND, I WOULD ASSUME THAT. END
BACKGROUND.

Q. ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE YESTERDAY, DOES THE
OUTCOME CHANGE ANY AMERICAN IDEAS ABOUT THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE THIRD WORLD POWERS IN THE UNITED
NATIONS?

A. I DO NOT THINK I WOULD WANT TO CHARACTERIZE OUR
REACTION TO THE DEBATE IN THOSE TERMS. OUR REACTION TO
THE OVERALL ISSUE, I THINK, IS THAT WHILE WE REGRETTED
THAT THE COUNCIL DIDN'T TAKE ANY POSITIVE ACT AGAINST THIS
CRIMINAL ACT OF HIJACKING, WE TOOK SOME SATISFACTION
FROM THE FACT THAT WITH A MAJORITY, I BELIEVE, OF THE
COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATING IN THE VOTE, NOT A SINGLE

DELEGATION VOTED AGAINST OUR BALANCED RESOLUTION. AND I THINK, AS I INDICATED IN A RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER QUESTION, REFERRING TO THE STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE DEBATE -- I THINK I MAY HAVE INDICATED THIS YESTERDAY -- CERTAINLY HEIGHTENED PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENTAL AWARENESS OF THE REAL THREAT WHICH AIR HIJACKING POSES.

Q. YOU SAID SATISFACTION. I MEAN, WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE WAY THE VOTE WENT THAT YOU FIND --

A. THAT NO ONE VOTED AGAINST OUR BALANCED RESOLUTION.

Q. WHAT DOES IT SPEAK TO? I MEAN, THE LOOSENING OF BLOC VOTING OR THAT YOUR MESSAGE GOT THROUGH?

A. I THINK OUR MESSAGE GOT THROUGH, AND I THINK THERE IS A HEIGHTENED AWARENESS OF THIS PROBLEM.

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Q. ON ANOTHER MATTER.

A. YES.

Q. CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST. YESTERDAY YOU TOOK A QUESTION DEALING WITH THE SOVIET UNION'S ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND YOU POSTED AN ANSWER.

A. YES.

Q. AND THE ANSWER, I THINK, WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT YOU ARE NOT IN BUSINESS TO DISCUSS DEALINGS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

A. I SAID WE DO NOT NORMALLY DISCUSS OUR EXCHANGES WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

Q. MY CHARACTERIZATION, I GUESS, SHOULD BE NOTED AS MINE.

A. YES.

Q. I TAKE IT YOU ARE NOT REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT THAT, THAT SWEEPING STATEMENT. THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT THE UNITED STATES' VIEWS ON THE SOVIET ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

THERE ARE REPORTS, FOR INSTANCE, THAT THE RUSSIANS MIGHT BE PREPARING FOR SOME MAJOR INITIATIVE CONCERNING LEBANON.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q. UNDER THE RUBRIC THAT YOU ARE NOT GOING TO TELL US ABOUT THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TELL US ABOUT -- THE ROSE BUSHES OUT FRONT?

A. I DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION ON THE CONDITION OF THE ROSE BUSHES OUT FRONT.

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Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON WHAT TRAVEL PLANS THE SECRETARY MAY HAVE?

A. BEYOND WHAT WE HAVE SPOKEN OF?

Q. YOU'VE SPOKEN OF SEVERAL TRIPS IN THE UNITED STATES.

A. YES, AND I SPOKE FOR GUIDANCE ONLY. WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THAT HE HAS BEEN THINKING OF ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE U.S.-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION IN TEHRAN AROUND THE FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST.

Q. AND IN CONNECTION WITH THAT, DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR OTHER AREAS THAT HE MAY VISIT?

A. HE HASN'T INDICATED TO ME SPECIFICALLY OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT I KNOW THAT, AS I INDICATED INITIALLY, HE IS THINKING OF INCLUDING OTHER COUNTRIES IN THIS ITINERARY.

Q. WOULD YOU EXCLUDE THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. THAT WAS ASKED EARLIER IN CONNECTION WITH THIS TRIP, AND MY INFORMATION IS THAT HE STILL HAS NO PLANS TO INCLUDE THE MIDDLE EAST.

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